

enough money to fully fund the ADC program at \$350 per month for a parent and one child and \$75 per month for each additional child. So that is the factual background. How much will it cost? You need to know that. You need to know that. It's a high cost item but it is not as high a cost as you might think. On your desk will be a letter from Liz Hruska in our Fiscal Analyst office, addressed to me. It says at the very back, because this bill starts implementing January 1st of '89, for a half year the cost is \$3,554,141, and for the full year \$7,127,371. Please note that is the cost. The cost is not 8 million and 16 million because there is federal dollars included, but to the state it's 3.5 million for the last half of this fiscal year and 7 million for a full fiscal year. That is the cost. Put that down on your pad so you will know what that is. Third fact. You will find among all the stuff that I have passed out a history, a history of legislation relating to ADC benefits. It was prepared in November, 1986, by Dick Hargesheimer, of the legislative Research Office. He makes some comments. He shows exactly what has happened with the ADC program from its inception in 1935 through the present, which was '86. He notes that the level of payment in 1987 had reached an all-time low in relationship to the purchasing power of the dollar in 1953. He notes how far behind we have fallen. You can find that on the first page of his report. There are charts and graphs with circles and arrows and other good things in the report. But the important fact to remember is that Nebraska's level of payment has never been lower in relationship to 1953 dollars, which was the high point. You need to know that. The next fact you need to know is that the last time this Legislature increased ADC benefits was 1980. That was eight years ago. That was the last increase, 1980. From that time, we have been faced with a variety of different economic and tax problems and we have chosen, notwithstanding the introduction of legislation, not to increase ADC benefits. You will note, I have handed out a chart prepared by the Children's Defense Fund. You will note as another fact that today Nebraska's payment levels for a...Nebraska's payment levels for a family of three, which can be a parent and two children, are 47 percent of the federal poverty level. In other words, our cash grant is 47 percent of what the United States government says a family of three requires for its essential needs. So we are less than 50 percent of what a family of three requires to meet the essential needs. Now, I am not going to spend more time talking about...I'm not going to tug at your heart strings, I'm not going to pull the stops out, I'm not going to say a lot of